

**TOP SECRET**

1968 JAN 11 00 22Z

OUT64039

TOP SECRET 110014Z CITE [ ] 2696.  
 PRIORITY [ ]  
 OXCART BLACK SHIELD  
 REF: [ ] 459 (IN 27607)

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1. IN RESPONSE TO REFERENCED MESSAGE REQUIREMENT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED:

(A) A MISSILE WAS FIRED FROM SAM SITE 267 PRIOR TO FRAME 502 (0405:22Z) OF MISSION BLACK SHIELD 6842 OF 4 JANUARY 1968. NO MISSILE WAS VISIBLE LEAVING THE SITE. HOWEVER, THE SIZE AND SHAPE OF THE SMOKE CLOUD AT SITE 267 INDICATED THAT THE MISSILE WAS FIRED A FEW SECONDS PRIOR TO THE TIME THE SITE WAS FIRST IMAGED ON FRAME 502. DETAILED INTERPRETATION OF THE SITE IS NOT POSSIBLE DUE TO THE COMBINATION OF SMOKE, SHADOW AND OBLIQUITY. IT CAN BE DETERMINED, HOWEVER, THAT AT LEAST ONE LAUNCHER IS ERECTED BUT THE ORIENTATION OF THE LAUNCHER CANNOT BE DETERMINED.

(B) A SHORT VAPOR TRAIL IS VISIBLE ON FRAME 516 (0405:55Z). SINCE THIS VAPOR TRAIL IS IMAGED ON ONLY ONE FRAME OF PHOTOGRAPHY, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION, ALTITUDE, OR DISTANCE FROM THE AIRCRAFT. IT DOES APPEAR THAT THE MISSILE TRAVELED FROM WEST TO EAST, CLIMBING AND APPROACHING THE AIRCRAFT.

2. ANNOTATED PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE VAPOR TRAIL AND SAM SITE 267 WILL BE FORWARDED [ ] AS SOON AS THE ORIGINAL NEGATIVE IS RECEIVED AND REPRODUCTION MATERIALS PROCESSED BY [ ]

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END OF MESSAGE

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